

Wretched Worldview

**Gospel Clarity:
Defining the Good News**

**Study Guide
Answer Key**

Study Guide Answer Key

These answers are not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as a general guideline. We encourage the student to give more detailed responses. Answers for each chapter can be found in the DVD. Some of the Going Deeper questions may require the use of additional resources.

All Scripture references are from the NASB.

CHAPTER ONE: A Wonderful Plan for Your Life?

1. According to Ray Comfort, what is America's greatest sin?
Idolatry.
2. How is idolatry like a buffet?
Idolatry takes all the "nice" things about God (His love, mercy and kindness), but sets aside the "hard" things (His holiness, justice and righteousness), in order to create for ourselves a "sweet" God that we feel comfortable with.
3. Why is idolatry such a grave sin?
Because it leads to all other sins.
4. What does Ray consider a major reason our nation has lost its fear of God?
The popular gospel message proclaiming "God has a wonderful plan for your life."
5. Describe Paul's "abundant" life.
He suffered beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, imprisonment and finally martyrdom.
6. What is unbiblical about the phrase "God has a wonderful plan for your life?"
It allows people to assume that what they consider wonderful is what God wants for them. According to the Bible, God does not necessarily give us the life we want, He gives us the life we need (in order to be conformed to the Image of Christ).
7. What kind of life does God promise to believers?
One filled with trial, tribulation, temptation and persecution.
8. What do we typically think comprises a wonderful life? How is this different from God's purpose for our lives?
We typically think of the wonderful life as a material comfort, wealth, good health, happy families, etc. God, however, is most interested in taking wretched sinners, redeeming them through the work of Jesus Christ, and then progressively changing them so they look like His Son.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Find the verse where Jesus says that He has come to give us life abundantly.
Write it out below.
John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly."
2. Let's take a deeper look at Paul's abundant life.

Who was Paul before his conversion? Summarize below what you learn after reading the following verses: Acts 7:58, 9:1-2, 22:3, 26:9-11; Galatians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:4-6. (Also read Acts 5:34 for information on Gamaliel.) (Note: Paul is referred to as Saul, his Hebrew name, in most of these verses.)

Answer should be similar to: Paul was an Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin. He was Born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but raised in Jerusalem to be educated by the respected Pharisee, Rabbi Gamaliel. Paul was zealous for the Jewish traditions, and advancing in Judaism beyond many of his Jewish contemporaries. By his own words, he was a “Hebrew among Hebrews.” As a young man, he was witness to the stoning of Stephen. As a leading Pharisee, devout and zealous for his faith, he persecuted Christians “beyond measure”, hoping to destroy the Church. He even pursued Christians to foreign cities to bring them back to Jerusalem for trial.

3. Read Acts 9:1-19 and 26:12-18 and answer the following questions.

Briefly describe what happened to Paul on the road to Damascus.

Answer should be similar to: As he was going to Damascus to root out Christians in the synagogues there, a bright light from heaven shown all around him and his companions; it was so bright they all fell to the ground. He then heard a voice asking him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” When Saul asked who was speaking, the voice replied, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.” While the other men could hear the voice, they saw no one. Saul was blind, so his companions led him to Damascus. He stayed there for three days without sight and neither eating or drinking.

What was the specific ministry Paul was appointed to do? (Where was Jesus sending him?)

Jesus told Ananias that Paul was a chosen instrument to bear His name before the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). Jesus told Paul He was sending him to the Gentiles to “open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me” (Acts 26:18).

What else did the Lord tell Ananias about Paul’s ministry?

That he would suffer for Him (Acts 9:16).

What is significant about the Lord telling Ananias this?

Suffering was part of what God had ordained for Paul in the ministry He had appointed for him as His chosen instrument.

4. In 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, Paul describes some of the suffering he has experienced as a minister of the gospel. Make a list of his experiences using the general headings below.

Suffered persecution:

Received thirty-nine lashes from the Jews five times

Beaten with rods three times

Stoned

Experienced catastrophe:

Shipwrecked three times; one of those times he spent a day and night floating on the open sea

In danger:

On rivers

From robbers

From his own countrymen (the Jews)
From the Gentiles
In the city
In the wilderness
On the sea
Among false brethren

Suffered physical hardship:
Many sleepless nights
Hungry and thirsty
In cold and exposure

Suffered internal strife:
Daily pressure and concern for the churches he founded

5. What was Paul's reaction to suffering for Christ? Read Philippians 1:12-20 and summarize his thoughts below.
Answer should be similar to: Paul's main concern over and above everything else was for the preaching of the gospel. Therefore, he used whatever circumstance he was in to further the gospel and proclaim Christ. His earnest desire was that Christ would be exalted in his body, whether by life or death.
6. What does Paul tell his fellow believers in Philippians 1:29?
He tells them that they too will suffer for His sake.
7. How do you think Paul would respond to a gospel message declaring that "God has a wonderful plan for your life?" Support your answer with Scripture.
Student's answer should be well thought out and supported with Scripture.

CHAPTER TWO: Judgment is Coming

1. What scenario did Ray Comfort give to expose the false message of “God has a wonderful plan for your life?”
He gave the scenario of preaching to a room full of people on the 100th floor of the World Trade Center on September 10, 2001. Telling them that God had a wonderful plan for their life would be ridiculous knowing the terrible tragedy that awaited them the next day.
2. In the above scenario, what message would the audience need to hear?
They would need to know that judgment was coming; that God has appointed for everyone to die once and then face His judgment. And the outcome of that judgment could be eternal conscience torment in a place called hell.
3. What is the key to preaching the gospel rightly?
To help people understand they are sinners in need of a Savior.
4. What has God given us to help people understand they are sinners?
The Law, which is the standard by which they’ll be judged by God.
5. How thorough will God’s justice be?
Very thorough! He will judge not only our actions, but also our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts.

GOING DEEPER:

1. How well do you know the Ten Commandments? List as many as you can from memory, then read Exodus 20:1-18 to see how well you did. Write down any you missed. (Try to get them in the correct order as well!)
 - 1) You shall have no other gods before Me
 - 2) You shall not make for yourself an idol.
 - 3) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
 - 4) Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
 - 5) Honor your father and mother.
 - 6) You shall not murder.
 - 7) You shall not commit adultery.
 - 8) You shall not steal.
 - 9) You shall not bear false witness
 - 10) You shall not covet.
2. What did Jesus have to say about these commandments? Read Matthew 5:21-22 and 27-28. Did Jesus change the commandments He was referencing in this passage?

What was His point?

No, Jesus was not changing the sixth and seventh commandments. He was trying to help the people understand that sin is a heart issue, and as such their hearts were the crux of their sin problems. Thus, even if their actions conformed to the Law (they didn't actually commit murder or adultery), their desires to do so left them just as guilty as if they had actually committed the acts.

3. Write Hebrews 10:31 below.
"It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
4. Who will fall into the hands of the living God on Judgment Day? Read the following passages and complete the chart. (Use a dictionary or commentary to define any words you don't understand.)

I Corinthians 6:9-10	Galatians 5:19-21	Revelation 21:8
The unrighteous	The immoral	The cowardly
Fornicators	The impure	The unbelieving
Idolaters	Those who practice sensuality	The abominable
Adulterers	Idolaters	Murderers
Effeminate	Sorcerers	Immoral persons
Homosexuals	Those who engage in enmity	Sorcerers
Thieves	Those who engage in strife	Idolaters
The covetous	Those who engage in jealousy	All liars
Drunkards	Those who engage in outbursts of anger	
Revilers	Those who engage in disputes	

Swindlers	Those who engage in dissensions	
	The factious	
	Those who envy	
	Those who engage in drunkenness	
	Those who engage in carousing	

5. Put a mark next to all of the sins above that you have committed.
6. Does this mean you will fall into the hands of the living God on Judgment Day? It depends. Read I Corinthians 6:11. What must happen in order to escape the wrath of God?
We must be washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Does this mean we never sin anymore when we experience the events described in I Corinthians 6:11? How does Galatians 5:21 help you answer that question? (If you're not sure, use a commentary to help you understand.)
Answer should be similar to: In Galatians 5:21, Paul warns that those who practice the above sins will not inherit the kingdom of God. The key word here is *practice*. The word implies habitual behavior, or a lifestyle, not a one-time act. Those who are not saved live a lifestyle of continual sin. They are sinners, by definition of their life. Those who have been saved (as described in I Corinthians 6:11) are no longer defined by their sin. That's why Paul used the word *were*, "And such were some of you..." Believers still sin, but they don't practice it; their lifestyles aren't characterized by sinful behaviors.
8. Take some time to think about your life in light of the above passages. Do you practice sin? Is your life marked by ongoing, habitual sin? Or have you been washed, sanctified and justified? If you're not sure, talk to someone who can help you assess your life in the light of God's Word.

CHAPTER THREE: Using the Law to Diagnose the Problem

1. What is the biblical gospel message?
Jesus Christ died on the cross to forgive us of our sins so we can be brought into a right relationship with the only true and living God, and face Him joyfully on Judgment Day instead of fearfully as an unbeliever who will be cast into hell.
2. What is God's ordained means to bring about conviction, guilt and humility?
The Law.
3. How did Jesus deal with the rich young ruler when he asked Him how to obtain eternal life?
First of all, He reproved the man's understanding of the word *good*. He then gave him five of the Ten Commandments to bring the knowledge of sin, and to show him God's standard of judgment.
4. What is God's definition of *good*?
Moral perfection in thought, word and deed.
5. Why do most people consider themselves to be good?
Because they compare themselves to man's standard instead of God's.
6. How do we help people understand they do not meet God's standards of goodness and will be judged accordingly?
By giving them the Law.
7. Why is it important for a doctor to give a diagnosis to a patient first before giving the cure? How is this similar to giving the Law in a gospel presentation?
Before giving the patient a cure, the doctor must first give him a diagnosis. Once the patient is made aware of how dire the situation is, he will then see the necessity for the cure, appreciate it, and appropriate it. Similarly, a person needs to understand their dire situation before a holy God so they will appreciate the necessity of a Savior, and appropriate Him through repentance and faith.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Make a list of the Ten Commandments again. Refer to Exodus 20:1-18 if you missed any.
 - 1) You shall have no other gods before Me
 - 2) You shall not make for yourself an idol.
 - 3) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
 - 4) Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
 - 5) Honor your father and mother.
 - 6) You shall not murder.
 - 7) You shall not commit adultery.
 - 8) You shall not steal.

9) You shall not bear false witness

10) You shall not covet.

2. In order to help us better understand the purpose of the Law, read Romans 3:9-20 and answer the following questions.

According to this passage, who is under sin?

Both the Jews and the Greeks. In other words, everyone.

How sinful is humanity? Complete the following outline based upon these verses:

There is none...

Righteous, not even one.

Who understands.

Who seeks for God.

Who does good.

All...

Have turned aside, together they have become useless.

Their throat:

Is an open grave.

With their tongues....

They keep deceiving.

Under their lips...

Is the poison of asps.

Their mouths...

Full of cursing and bitterness.

Their feet...

Swift to shed blood.

In their paths...

Destruction and misery.

The path of peace...

They have not known.

There is no...

Fear of God before their eyes.

How would you summarize the extent of man's sinfulness?

Man is exceedingly sinful. His sin nature affects every area of his life. He does not seek after God or care about the things of God. He is deceptive and even violent with his fellow man. Ultimately, he has no fear of God and, therefore, does not know the path of peace with His Creator or the rest of creation.

Who is under the Law? What does it mean to be under the Law?

Everyone is under the Law. That means everyone is accountable to God for failing to meet its demands.

What does it mean that the Law closes every mouth?

It exposes a person for the sinner they really are, and leaves them without an excuse for their sin.

What is the purpose of the Law according to this passage?

The purpose of the Law is to bring knowledge of sin (verse 20).

What can the Law *not* do? Why? (Use a commentary if needed.)

***Answer should be similar to:* It cannot justify a person before God because no one can keep the Law perfectly. Its purpose, as stated above, was to bring knowledge of sin to fallen humanity. To be justified before God means to be declared righteous. The Law does not make us righteous. It shows us how incapable we are of being righteous, and thus exposes our need for a Savior to rescue us from our hopeless condition.**

Read the rest of Romans 3 and summarize below how a person is justified before God.

Use a commentary if necessary.

***Answer should be similar to:* Justification comes by faith, apart from the works of the Law. It is a gift by God's grace through the redemption of Jesus Christ, who perfectly fulfilled the Law's demands. This enabled His death on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God against us as lawbreakers. (This is what *propitiation* means.) He did all this as our substitute, so that we can be declared righteous in God's sight.**

CHAPTER FOUR: The Gospel is Great News!

1. What could be one of the reasons there are many “professors” of the gospel, but by their lifestyle they show they are not “possessors” of it?
We are not proclaiming the Law before proclaiming the gospel.
2. What is the significance of Mount Sinai?
It’s where God presented Israel with His moral precepts (laws) that apply to all nations.
3. What does the first commandment address and what is its significance to the other commandments?
The first commandment addresses idolatry. How we understand God, how we think about Him and worship Him is crucial. All of the other commandments we break come from our lack of understanding who the true God is.
4. What is the purpose of the Law?
To help people understand the exceeding sinfulness of their sin and their dire situation before a Holy God.
5. What do you do after opening the Law with someone?
You bring the gospel!
6. How is it possible that God can justly dismiss the charges against us for our sin?
Answer should be similar to: Because Jesus paid the fine for us; He took the penalty we deserve when He died on the cross for our sins. Therefore, God can justly and rightly declare us “not guilty” and free us from the penalty of our sin.
7. What must someone do in order for God to “dismiss their case” before Him?
They must repent, turn around, and humble themselves before God.
8. What is the significance of Jesus perfectly fulfilling the Law?
God imputes, or credits, Jesus’ righteousness to us. God then sees us as morally righteous in His sight.

GOING DEEPER:

Imputed righteousness was mentioned in this chapter. Let’s look deeper at this essential doctrine of the faith.

1. Look up the word *impute* or *imputation* in a dictionary or Bible commentary and write its definition here.
To impute means to credit a person or cause; to attribute or ascribe.
According to Wayne Grudem in *Systematic Theology*, to impute means to think of as belonging to someone, and therefore to cause it to belong to that person.

2. There are three imputations mentioned in the Bible that pertain to our understanding of the gospel. The Apostle Paul discusses two of them in Romans 5. Read Romans 5:19 and complete the chart below.

Through one man...	Action	Result
Adam	Disobedience	Many made sinners
Jesus	Obedience	Many made righteous

Romans 5:12 explains what happened when Adam sinned. Read the verse and add the information to the chart above.

Through one man...	Action	Result
Adam	Disobedience Sin and death entered the world	All men sinners Death spread to all men
Jesus	Obedience	Many made righteous

3. Based upon the verses above, what was first imputed, or credited, to mankind and by whom? (Feel free to use a study Bible or commentary to help you understand these verses better.)
Adam's sin was imputed, or credited, to all of humanity. Therefore, because humanity bore the guilt of Adam's sin, humanity suffers the consequences of sin which is death.

What was the second imputation based upon these verses?

Jesus' act of obedience, His righteousness, is credited to those who believe in Him.

4. Humanity not only bears the guilt for Adam's sin, but also suffers from the corruption of his sin. That means we have inherited a sin nature. It's in our DNA. Read what David said about his sin nature in Psalm 51:5. When did David consider himself a sinner?
From before birth!

This is an important truth to remember: *We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners!* Our fallen, sinful nature dictates our fallen, sinful behavior.

5. There's one more essential imputation that we must address. Read Galatians 3:13 and 1 Peter 2:22-24, then write down what is imputed, or credited, to whom. As best you can, explain why this happened. Feel free to use a study Bible or commentary.
Our sins were imputed, or credited, to Jesus on the cross. *An explanation for why Jesus did this should be similar to:* When he died, it was not for His sins, for He had no sin. God put our sins upon Him and He took the punishment we deserve. He did this to satisfy God's justice, and to redeem us from the curse of the Law so that we could be saved and given eternal life.
6. 2 Corinthians 5:21 describes what is often called "The Great Exchange", which is another way of describing imputation. Read the verse and write down the two great exchanges being described. Use your own words.
Exchange One: Our sin is put on the sinless Jesus.
Exchange Two: Jesus' perfect righteousness is put on us.
7. Draw an illustration of "The Great Exchange" in the space below. This is at the very heart of the gospel, so it's an important truth to understand and take very personally. If you have repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus as your Savior, then you have personally experienced this wonderful exchange! When you finish your drawing, take some time to pray and thank the Lord for what He has done to save you and make you His child.

CHAPTER FIVE: Confusing the Gospel with Its Fruit

1. What is the gospel in a nutshell?
Jesus Christ died for sinners. When someone repents of their sin and trusts in Jesus, all their sins are forgiven because of the redemptive work of the risen Savior.
2. What are some of the effects, or results, of the gospel as mentioned in the segment? Can you add more?
Understanding the world, direction for life, the fruit of the Spirit, feeling loved, knowing you're not alone, experiencing joy and peace, finding purpose in life, having answers to the big questions in life (Where did we come from? Where do we go when we die?)
***Other answers could include:* relief from guilt and shame, incorporation into a body of Believers, understanding God's purpose for suffering, the desire to love others, etc.**
3. Why did Todd draw a circle around the gospel?
To differentiate between the gospel and its effects.
4. Why is it important to differentiate between the gospel and its effects?
We don't want to make Jesus into a "product" by "selling" the benefits of the gospel in order to make people feel better about their lives. That is a wrong understanding of the gospel, and an unbiblical presentation of it.
5. What word is not mentioned in regards to the gospel in the book of Acts? Which words are mentioned multiple times? Why is this?
Love is not mentioned, but *resurrection* and *repentance* are. The resurrection is the proof that the gospel message is true, and repentance is the biblical response to the gospel.
6. What is the danger of someone responding to the gospel message for its "gifts", but not for its "Giver"?
They will most likely receive neither. If they just come for the benefits of the gospel, they will probably not respond in humility, repentance and faith in Jesus; which is the biblical requirement for salvation.

GOING DEEPER:

Let's look at some of the sermons in the book of Acts to see how the Apostles preached the gospel to the Jews and Gentiles of their day. What can we learn from them?

1. Read Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:22-36 and answer the following questions.

How does Peter address his audience? What does this tell you?

He addresses them as "Men of Israel"- verse 22. He's speaking to Jews.

How does Peter present Jesus in his sermon? Write a short summary after each verse listed below.

Verse 22- Jesus was attested to them by God through signs and wonders which God

performed through Him in their midst.

Verse 23 – He was nailed to a cross and put to death by the hands of godless men.

Verse 24 – God raised him up from the dead.

Verse 25 – David had spoken prophetically about Him.

Verse 31 – Jesus is the fulfillment of David's prophecy.

Verse 33 – Jesus is exalted to the right hand of God.

Verse 36 – God has made Him both Lord and Christ.

According to Peter, whose plan was fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus?

It was the predetermined plan of God – verse 23.

What did Peter accuse his audience of doing?

He accused them of crucifying Him – verse 23 & 36.

2. How did the people respond to Peter's message? Read Acts 2:37-38.

What was the reaction of those who heard Peter's preaching?

They were pierced to the heart and desperate to know how to make things right.

What did Peter tell them?

To repent and be baptized.

3. Read Peter's second sermon in Acts 3:11-19.

What had just happened earlier in the chapter that prompted Peter's sermon?

Peter and John had just healed a lame man.

What was the crowd's reaction to this?

They were amazed.

How did Peter transition this event into an opportunity to present the gospel?

He changed the focus from himself and John to the One who gave them the power to perform the miracle.

What does Peter charge his audience with doing to Jesus?

Delivering Him up and disowning Him in the presence of Pilate – verse 13.

Asking for a murderer to be released to them and Jesus to be put to death – verse 14.

What titles does he use to describe Jesus?

The Servant of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – verse 13.

The Holy and Righteous One – verse 14.

The Prince of Life – verse 15.

His (God's) Christ – verse 18

To what does Peter declare they are witnesses?

The resurrection.

What is the significance of verse 18?

Peter wants them to know that Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of the suffering servant, another proof that He is the Messiah.

To what did Peter attribute the man's miraculous healing?

Faith in the name of Jesus.

How did Peter want the audience to respond to his message?

He called them to repent, that their sins may be wiped away.

4. In the above examples, Peter was preaching to the Jews. Let's now look at how Paul preaches the gospel to Gentiles. Read Acts 17:22-34.

What does Paul use, or refer to, as an opportunity to preach to the men of Athens?

He refers to their altar to an unknown god, and uses it as an opportunity to introduce them to the only true God – verse 23.

How does Paul describe the only true God?

Verse 23:

Creator of the world and everything in it

Lord of heaven and earth

Verse 25:

Giver of life and breath and all things

Verse 26:

Maker and sovereign head of all nations

Verse 29:

Divine

Verse 31:

Judge of all the world

How does Paul distinguish between the one true God and the gods worshipped by the Athenians?

God does not live in a temple made with hands, nor is He served by humans – verse 24-25.

He is divine, not an image made from gold or silver formed by man – verse 29.

How does Paul describe mankind's relationship to God?

The rise and fall of nations and their geographical locations are determined by Him – verse 26.

Every person's existence is dependent upon Him – verse 28.

Mankind is His offspring – verse 29. (Paul is taking this word from one of their poets and is using it in the sense of being God's creation, not in the sense of being His children through repentance and faith in Jesus.)

What does the one true God demand of all men, including these Athenians? Why?

God demands they repent because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness.

Why do you think Paul spent so much time explaining who God is before calling them to repentance?

Answer should be similar to: They had never heard of the one true God before, so they were ignorant of Him. Paul wanted to establish God's complete and utter sovereignty over creation – and over them – to make the call to repentance logical.

Because He is their creator and sustainer, He has all authority to demand they repent.

Why do you think Peter did not do the same?

Because his audience was composed of Jews who already knew who God was.

How will God judge the world?

Through a man whom He has appointed, Jesus – verse 31.

What did God do to prove that this Man was sent by Him?

Raised Him from the dead.

How did Paul's audience respond to that claim?

Some began to sneer, some wanted to hear more, and some believed – verses 32-34.

5. What are the similarities between Peter and Paul's preaching of the gospel?

***Answer should be similar to:* They both focused on the authority of God the Father and the veracity of Jesus as God the Son. They also held their audience to account for sinning against God, whether in ignorance or defiance. They both called for repentance.**

6. Is this kind of gospel preaching similar or different from what you hear today? Explain and give examples to support your answer.

Answer should be well thought out with appropriate examples.

CHAPTER SIX: Wrong Responses to the Gospel

1. What is the biblical response to the gospel?
The biblical response to the gospel is repentance and faith.
2. What are the wrong responses to the gospel, as presented in the DVD? Give a brief explanation as to why each is unbiblical.
 - 1) Say “Yes” to Jesus.
This response doesn’t include repentance or faith, which is also commanded in Scripture. Biblical faith is not a mere assent to gospel facts, but a wholehearted submission to, an embracing of, and a putting on of Jesus as our Savior.
 - 2) Make Jesus your Lord and Savior.
This response is wrong because we don’t make Jesus anything! He IS Lord and Savior. In fact, He is Lord of lords and King of kings. That is true regardless of people’s response, or lack of it.
 - 3) Ask Jesus into your heart.
This is wrong because it isn’t biblical. Jesus does not dwell within us because we ask Him to. He does so once we’ve repented and put our trust in Him.
 - 4) Make a decision for Jesus.
While repentance does include a change of mind regarding Jesus and our sin, our decision does not save us. God saves us because of what Jesus did in our place. That’s it.
 - 5) Accept Jesus.
This is a wrong response because Jesus doesn’t need our acceptance, we need His! And He accepts us when we repent of our sins and put our trust in Jesus alone for our salvation.

GOING DEEPER:

1. The biblical response to the gospel is repentance and faith. Read the following verses and make note of who is giving the command to repent and believe, the audience being addressed, and the content. (You will have to read a few verses before or after to understand the context.)
Mark 1:15 – While preaching in Galilee, Jesus announced that the kingdom of God is at hand and He called for the Jews to repent and believe in the gospel.
Acts 20:21 – Paul was speaking to the elders of the church in Ephesus, recounting his ministry among them; in part of which was solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
Hebrews 6:1 – The writer of Hebrews refers to repentance (from dead works) and faith toward God as elementary teaching about Christ, and foundational to a relationship with Him.
2. What important fact about repentance do you learn from the following verses?
Acts 11:18 and 2 Timothy 2:25.
God grants repentance. It is a gift of His grace.
3. What short phrase is used in both Acts 26:20 and I Thessalonians 1:9 to describe the act of

repentance?

The phrase is “turn to God”.

What does this phrase imply about what an unsaved person is turned *towards* before they repent? How does I Thessalonians 1:9 show this?

An unsaved person is turned towards their sin, thus the command to repent and turn to God. In I Thessalonians 1:9, the Christians there had turned from serving idols to serve God.

In the space below, draw a picture of repentance as depicted in the phrase from the passages in Acts and I Thessalonians.

Drawing should represent a turning from sin toward faith in God.

- 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 describes two kinds of sorrow. Read the verses and fill in the chart below as applicable.

	Godly Sorrow	Worldly Sorrow
Is According to:	The will of God	
Produces:	A repentance without regret	Death
Leads to:	Salvation	

- Because the difference between these two sorrows is the difference between life and death, it is imperative to understand this difference. Read a commentary or two and summarize below what you learn.

Answer should be similar to: Godly sorrow is a sorrow over offending a holy God and a recognition that the offender is justly due punishment for their offense. Worldly sorrow, on the other hand, is sorrow over getting caught and having to endure the consequences of the sin. Because godly sorrow is directed toward God, there is a desire to turn away from the sin that offended Him and to look to Him for the grace to overcome the sinful desires and behaviors.

- According to Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:8, and Acts 26:20, what will true repentance produce? Explain what this “produce” is. (Use a commentary if necessary.)
True repentance produces fruit, which includes good works, a growing love for God, a growing hatred for sin, a life marked by obedience to God’s Word, etc.
- Have you experienced godly sorrow over your sin which produces a genuine repentance (a turning away from your sin and turning to God), and leads to salvation? Does your life now reflect fruit in keeping with repentance? Take a few moments to prayerfully answer these questions. Don’t take this lightly. Life and death hang in the balance!

CHAPTER SEVEN: Why Evangelicals Don't Evangelize

1. In the poll Todd referenced, what percent of Christians share their faith with others?
A mere 2%.
2. The puritans preached in such a way as to let people know the gospel has demands. What does that mean?
When God saves someone through Jesus Christ, the demand, or marching order, of the saint is to become increasingly sanctified; that is, to live in obedience to His Word.
3. What is meant by the term *regeneration* (as used in this context)? Look it up in a dictionary if you're not sure.
Regeneration means new birth or spiritual birth.
4. Based on the quote from Joel Beeke in his book, *Puritan Evangelism*, how does a person experience regeneration, according to the Bible?
A regenerate person has been given a new nature by the Holy Spirit. He is born of the Spirit to become spiritual (John 3:6). He has been recreated so that all things become new.
5. According to the same quote by Beeke, what are the characteristics of a regenerate person?
The regenerate person loves God, loves holiness, loves the Bible, loves the godly, and loves the thought of going to heaven to commune with God and leave sin behind forever.
6. In the final quote by Beeke, he warns of the tragic fruit that results from the absence of sin in today's modern preaching and evangelism. He mentions the effect on three groups of people. Who are they and what is the fruit mentioned?
**Unconverted sinners – not warned of their sin and danger, and seldom pointed to their way of escape through Jesus Christ and His crucifixion.
Nominal professors – allowed to sleep on in self-complacency and carnal security.
Believers – not urged to daily repentance and mortification of sin.**
7. What would happen if today's preachers were more like the puritans in their preaching of sin and its eternal consequence?
Not only would sinners be convicted of their sin and run to the cross, but believers would care more about the plight of the unsaved and perhaps be more motivated to evangelize the lost.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What does it mean to be "born again"? Read John 3:1-21 and answer the following questions.

What did Jesus first say to Nicodemus that caused him great confusion?

Jesus told him that unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God

(verse 3).

How did Nicodemus respond? Was his response reasonable?

Nicodemus asked Jesus how a man can be born a second time (verse 4). This is a very reasonable question, as it seems an absurd statement in the physical sense.

Nicodemus didn't understand that Jesus was speaking spiritually, not physically.

What are two births and two natures that Jesus describes in verse 6?

When we are born physically, we are born of the flesh and so our nature is of the flesh.

When we are born spiritually, we are born of the Spirit and so our nature is of the Spirit.

Jesus told him not to marvel at His statement. He then compared the working of the Holy Spirit to the wind. What point was Jesus trying to make?

The wind is unseen and uncontrolled by humans. We can only perceive it by its effect on things around us (we hear its sound, or we see something moving because of it.).

So it is with the Holy Spirit. We cannot see or control His work of regeneration in the human heart, but we can see its effects on a person's life.

How does John 1:12-13 reinforce Jesus' statement about the Holy Spirit's role in salvation?

Being born again is according to the will of God, not the will of man.

Do you think Nicodemus had been born of the Spirit? Give support for your answer.

Nicodemus had not been born of the Spirit because he couldn't understand what Jesus was saying, nor did he believe Jesus (verse 12).

According to Jesus, how is the new birth appropriated to someone? What verses tell you this?

Through belief in the name of the only begotten Son, Jesus, and his death on the Cross (verses 14-16, and 18).

What does Jesus say about those who do not believe?

They have been judged already.

Why have unbelievers been judged already? Use Scripture to support your answer.

Though the light (Jesus) has come into the world, they hate the light and love the darkness more because they don't want their evil deeds exposed (verses 19-20).

2. How does Ephesians 2:1&5 help you understand the necessity for being born again?

Explain your answer. (Use a commentary if necessary).

It is necessary because people are spiritually dead. That means everyone is born under the curse of sin, and separated from God. They are unable to desire or understand the things of God unless, and until, the Holy Spirit gives spiritual life.

3. According to Colossians 1:13, what happens when someone is born again? Relate this to what you learned in Ephesians 2:1&5.

When God causes someone to be born again, He delivers them from the domain of darkness where they were spiritually dead, and transfers them to the kingdom of His

Son where they are spiritually alive.

4. What are the differences between being spiritually dead and spiritually alive?

Read the following verses and complete the chart below.

2 Corinthians 1:22, 4:4, 5:17

Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-18, 24

1 Peter 1:23

Spiritually Dead	Spiritually Alive
Minds are blinded by the god of this world, can't see the light of the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4).	Sealed by the Holy Spirit who is given in our hearts as a pledge (2 Cor. 1:22).
Walking according to the world, living in the lusts of the flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and mind, children of wrath (Eph. 2:1-3).	A new creature/creation, the old has passed away (2 Cor. 5:17).
Walking in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of hardness of heart (Eph. 4:17-18).	New self is in the likeness of God, created in righteousness, holiness and truth (Eph. 4:24).
	Born again of an imperishable seed through the living word of God (1 Peter 1:23).

CHAPTER EIGHT: Goats in the Pews

1. What was the point of Todd and Adrian's "really unrehearsed" skit?
To show the way many Christians evangelize; that is, by trying to *persuade* people to become Christians instead of presenting the gospel as a need, or a necessity, for their life.
2. What's the danger of "gussying up" the gospel? Why?
The danger is that some people will try Jesus experimentally, but never receive Him experientially. If Jesus is presented primarily as Someone to make life better, then when troubles come people will become bitter, "backslide" and their latter end will be worse than their first.
3. What was the "method" of evangelism for the Puritans?
They would slay unbelievers with the Law in order to help them see the dire situation they were in as sinners with the death penalty for sin hanging over their heads. The point was to cause people to be "destroyed", to lose their self-righteousness, and understand that the just penalty for their actions was hell. Then, they would bring in the gospel.
4. What is the danger of not evangelizing as the Puritans did?
It can lead to false converts: people who think they are saved, but are not.
5. According to the quote from Joel Beeke, (from his book, *Puritan Evangelism*), what is missing in today's modern evangelism? What is the result?
The preaching of holiness. It's treated as something separate from salvation. Today's gospel message is often reduced to an appeal to self-interest; that is, it mentions forgiveness of sin and assurance of eternal life, but omits the teaching of sanctification as part of salvation. The result is people think they can be saved apart from their lives showing evidence of regeneration – holy living.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What is a Christian's relationship to sin? Read Romans 6 and answer the following questions. Be sure to cite the verse(s) in your answers.

How does Paul describe our relationship with sin in verse 2?

We have died to sin.

Paul uses the word *baptize* in this chapter in a figurative sense. He is not referring to someone being immersed in water. Rather, he is speaking of being united to, or identifying with Christ.

What happens when someone is baptized into Christ Jesus?

When someone is baptized into Christ, they are uniting with Him in His death, burial and resurrection (verses 4-5).

For what purpose?

So that our body of sin might be done away with (verse 6).

How have we become united with Christ in His resurrection?

Just as Christ was raised to the glory of the Father, so we are also raised to walk in newness of life (verse 5).

What happens when someone has died to sin?

They are no longer slaves to sin (verse 6) because they've been freed from it (verse 7).

Who is the *old self* that Paul refers to in verse 6? Use a commentary if you're not sure of the answer.

The old self is the unregenerate or natural man who is born spiritually dead and separated from God because of his sin.

How does Paul describe the old man throughout this chapter?

A slave to sin (verse 6, 17)

Sin reigning in its mortal body (vs 12) and presenting its members as instruments of unrighteousness (vs 13)

What happens to the one who is dead to sin?

They are alive to God in Christ Jesus (verse 11).

How are they to present themselves to God?

As one who is alive from the dead and their bodies as instruments of righteousness (verse 13).

According to verse 16, we are slaves to only two masters. What are they and what is the result of each?

We are either slaves of sin resulting in death, or slaves of obedience resulting in righteousness.

When someone is freed from sin, what do they become slaves to?

Righteousness (verse 18) and God (verse 22).

What is the result and outcome of being enslaved to God?

Sanctification and eternal life (verse 22).

2. Explain Galatians 2:20 in light of what you learned in Romans 6.

Answer should be similar to: When Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ" he is referring to his unregenerate nature, the "old man" that was a slave to sin. Since that old man died, it was no longer he that lived, but Christ in him that made him spiritually alive to God. No longer did he live by the flesh, for sin no longer was his master. The life he now lived, he lived by faith in the Son.

3. Sanctification (holiness) is an important facet of salvation. We are not just saved *from* our sins, but we are saved *to* walk in newness of life (Romans 6:5). Read the following passages and make a list of what we are to "put on" and "put off" as we grow in sanctification. (Some verses will imply or assume that which is to be put off or put on.)
Ephesians 4:22-32; Colossians 3:8-14; 1 Peter 2:1-2

Put Off	Put On
The old self (Eph. 4:22)	The new self (Eph. 4:22)
Falsehood (Eph. 4:25 and Col. 3:9)	Truth (Eph. 4:25)
Stealing (Eph. 4:28)	Labor with hands to share with others (Eph. 4:28)
Unwholesome words (Eph. 4:29)	Edifying words to give grace to those who hear them (Eph. 4:29)
Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and all malice (Eph. 4:31)	Kindness, tender-heartedness, forgiveness to others (Eph. 4:32)
Anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech (Col. 3:8)	A heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Col. 3:12)
All malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, and slander (I Peter 2:1)	Love (Col. 3:14)
	(implied) A longing for the pure milk of the word (I Peter 2:2)

- The process of sanctification is summed up nicely in Philippians 2:12-13. What role do believers have and what role does God have, and how are they connected?
Believers are to work out their salvation in fear and trembling because God is at work in them to will and to work for His good pleasure.
- According to Philippians 2:13, how are we able to put off the old self and put on the new self?
God is at work in us, helping us (by His Spirit) to be obedient to His Word.

CHAPTER NINE: Forgetting the First Part of the Gospel- Part 1

1. Why do Peter and Paul, in their epistles, continually remind their readers of the gospel?
Like us, their readers were forgetful. Forgetfulness is part of the effects of the fall.
2. What are the two components of the gospel? Explain each one as presented in the DVD.
1) We are very bad sinners who hate God.
According to the Bible, we are not casual or passive about God. Outside of Christ, we are at enmity with Him, which means we are His enemies. Our hatred of God comes from our sinful nature, which we inherited from Adam.
2) Jesus is a very great Savior who saves rebels.
3. What happens when we forget one or both of the main messages of the gospel?
There is trouble, grief and strife.
4. Which of these two components do we most often forget and how does it manifest itself in our daily lives?
We most often forget the first one; that we are very bad sinners. Our forgetfulness of this part of the gospel shows up in how we respond to other people's sin, usually with incredulosity (we can't believe it) and often anger.
5. Since everyone is a sinner, and even Christians still sin, then what should be our response to sin?
We shouldn't ignore sin in ourselves or others, we should deal with it. Remembering the second component of the gospel, though, will help us to respond to sin rightly and not react sinfully.

GOING DEEPER:

1. In this chapter, Todd referred to forgetfulness as a *noetic effect of the fall*. Research the word *noetic* and give a brief description of it here. Include its definition, and anything else you learn about it.
Answer should at least include: Noetic means of, or relating to, the mind, especially to its rational and intellectual faculties. It comes from the Greek adjective *noētikos*, meaning *intellectual*.
2. Based upon your understanding of the word *noetic*, to what is the phrase "noetic effect of the fall" referring?
The effects of sin on the mind and its ability to think and reason. In this case, Todd was referring to forgetfulness being one of these effects on the mind.
3. Using a concordance, find at least five Bible verses that support each component of the gospel and list them below.
1) We are very bad sinners who hate God:
Possible verses: Genesis 6:5; Isaiah 59:2; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:19, 8:44; Romans 1:18-32, 3:23, 8:7-8; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:3
2) Jesus is a very great Savior who saves rebels.

Possible verses: Luke 19:10; John 3:16, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:4-9; I Timothy 1:15; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 2:9; I Peter 1:18-19, 2:21-24; I John 4:9-10, 14

4. Of the verses you found above, pick one from each component of the gospel to memorize. Write them out in the space below.

CHAPTER TEN: Forgetting the First Part of the Gospel – Part 2

1. What are the two main components of the gospel?
 - 1) **We are very bad sinners who hate God.**
 - 2) **Jesus is a very great Savior who saves rebels.**
2. List the seven statements that reveal when we're forgetting the first part of the gospel. Also, write a brief explanation as to how each statement reveals our gospel amnesia.
 - 7) **When I was your age...**
We're implying that we were less sinful than we really were when we were younger. This could be because time has erased our memory of the truth, and/or because we have an opinion of ourselves that is higher than it should be. Either way, we're forgetting that we were wretched little sinners just like everyone born in Adam.
 - 6) **Kids these days...**
Similar to statement 7.
 - 5) **How many times do I have to tell you?**
This implies that sin is easy to conquer, and therefore obedience shouldn't really be a problem. We're forgetting that due to our sinfulness we need to be constantly told and re-told what is right and even then, we will continue to sin!
 - 4) **What's the matter with you?**
God never asks this of us because He knows what the matter is - we're sinners! Even though Christians have a new nature, they still battle the flesh and its desires.
 - 3) **I can't believe you did that.**
When we forget the first part of the gospel, our reaction to the sin of others is often anger, exasperation, or worse!
 - 2) **How dare you?**
This statement reveals not only gospel amnesia, but self-righteousness!
 - 1) **I'm disgusted with you.**
Similar to statement 2. Reveals gospel amnesia, self-righteousness and contempt for a fellow sinner.
3. How do we keep ourselves mindful of the gospel so we don't respond to sin in these ways?
By reminding ourselves of the gospel daily, reflecting on our own wretched sinfulness and God's amazing salvation in Jesus.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Have you ever found yourself saying or thinking one of the statements above? When are you most likely to say or think them, and to whom are they most often directed?
Answers will vary.
2. Rewrite the seven statements above from a gospel perspective. Choose a scenario for each one, and write out your response. For example, statement 7 could be rewritten as follows:
When I was your age I was a little sinner too. I still am. So I understand why you're behaving as you are. It's hard to obey, isn't it? But the Lord can help you do what is right. And so can I...

- 7) When I was your age...
 - 6) Kids these days...
 - 5) How many times do I have to tell you?
 - 4) What's the matter with you?
 - 3) I can't believe you did that.
 - 2) How dare you?
 - 1) I'm disgusted with you.
3. Take a few moments to reflect upon your sinfulness by listing some of the sins for which God has graciously forgiven you. Then spend some moments in prayer, thanking Him for sending Jesus to suffer and die for these sins, so you could be forgiven for them. Don't rush through this. This is what remembering the gospel is all about!

CHAPTER ELEVEN: Forgetting the Second Part of the Gospel – Part 1

1. What are the two parts of the gospel message?
1) You are a wicked sinner.
2) Jesus is an amazing Savior.
2. What happens when we forget the first part?
Usually leads to strife, contention and fighting with others.
3. What is the state of sinners apart from Christ?
They are under the wrath of God and justly deserve His temporal and eternal punishment.
4. What is the main point of John 3:16?
The main point is to tell us that God loves the world.
5. What Bible verse did Todd quote in describing God's love? Look it up and write it out below.
I John 4:10: "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

GOING DEEPER:

1. Look up the following verses on the wrath of God and write a brief summary of what you learn from each passage.
Ezekiel 5:11-13, 15 (*note the context*) – God promised Judah that His wrath would be spent and satisfied against the nation, in judgment of their defiling of God's sanctuary by idol worship and other abominations. His wrath came in the form of famine, war and the scattering of its inhabitants to other nations, effectively wiping out the nation and causing them to be an object of horror to other nations. This is an example of what can happen when God executes judgment in anger, wrath and raging rebukes.

John 3:36 – The wrath of God abides on anyone who does not believe (and therefore does not obey) the Son.

Romans 1:18 – The wrath of God is revealed against all ungodliness, and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

Romans 2:5 – Those who are stubborn and unrepentant are storing up wrath for themselves on the day of wrath (the day of judgment).

Colossians 3:6 – The wrath of God will come as a result of immorality, impurity,

passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Ephesians 2:1-5 (use a commentary if necessary to better understand this verse)–
Because of our sinful, fallen nature we are born children of wrath. We are spiritually dead toward God, and live under the rule of Satan (the prince of the power of the air). That means we are under God's rightful condemnation and judgment (John 3:36) until He makes us spiritually alive in Christ.

Revelation 6:12-16 – There will come a day when God will execute His wrath upon the nations that rejected His Son. It will be so bad that everyone on the earth will try to hide and beg the mountains to fall upon them so they can escape the wrath of the Lamb. No one will be able to stand in that day.

2. The word *propitiation* is very important in understanding how God's wrath is removed from us when we are in Christ. Look up the word in a dictionary and write its definition here.
Propitiation means appeasement; satisfaction; atoning sacrifice.
3. The Greek word for *propitiation* is *hilastrion*. This is the same word for the mercy seat, which covered the Ark of the Covenant. Read the following verses and then summarize the significance of the mercy seat. (The Hebrew word for *atonement* means to cover, to make reconciliation, to appease, to cleanse.)
Exodus 25:17-21; Leviticus 16: 2-3, 11-14, 29-30, 34
Once a year on the Day of Atonement, the high priest (Aaron being the first high priest) would enter the Holy of Holies with the blood of a sacrificed animal and sprinkle it on the mercy seat that covered the Ark of the Covenant. The sprinkling of the blood, which represented the life given, allowed God to cover Israel's sins, satisfy His righteous anger and reconcile them once again to Himself.
4. How does Isaiah 53:11 convey the idea of propitiation?
God saw the anguish of Jesus in his crucifixion and was *satisfied* by His sacrifice.
5. Read the following verses, then answer the questions that follow.
Romans 3:23-25; Hebrews 2:17; I John 4:10

Who put Jesus forward as a propitiation for sin?
God the Father sent the Son (I John 4:10).

How do we know God loves us?
He sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sin (I John 4:10).

How do we receive this propitiation for our sin?
We receive it by faith (Romans 3:25).

According to Hebrew 2:17, what was required of Jesus to make propitiation for sin? Explain what this means. (Hebrews 2:18 will help you better understand.)

Hebrews 2:17 says, “Jesus had to be made like his brothers in every respect.” This means that He had to become a man, take on human nature and be tempted by sin as we are (though He never sinned). In this way, He could be our High Priest to stand between us and God, and at the same time be the sacrifice that satisfied God’s righteous anger against us.

6. Reflect upon everything you read regarding God’s wrath, and Jesus being the sacrifice that satisfied His wrath. Write down your thoughts and then spend some time praying and thanking God for sending His Son to be the propitiation for your sin.

CHAPTER TWELVE: Forgetting the Second Part of the Gospel – Part 2

1. How are the results of forgetting the first part of the gospel often different than the results of forgetting the second part?

Forgetting the first part typically leads to external strife (contention with others).

Forgetting the second part often leads to internal and external strife.

2. List the seven statements that reveal we're forgetting the second part of the gospel. Include a brief explanation as to why each statement is wrong in light of the gospel.

1) I feel guilty.

Our feelings do not determine the truth which is that all of our sins past, present and future, have been forgiven. The debt of our sin has been paid. And not only do we not bear the guilt of our sin anymore, but we now bear Christ's righteousness. His perfect life is credited to us!

2) I hate myself.

Hating ourselves is a direct contradiction to God's love for us, which He displayed in sending His Son to die for us.

3) Do you have any idea how much I love you?

Because God has done everything for us, we shouldn't keep a tally of what we've done for others. By comparison, it's pretty miniscule!

4) The least could you do is...

This is a statement that indicates we expect others to meet our needs, something God has already done for us in Christ. When we remember the second part of the gospel, it frees us up to demand nothing from others.

5) Say you're sorry to your sister.

When we force our children, or others, to apologize against their will we're not modeling the gospel. God's kindness leads us to repentance, not His anger or threats of punishment.

6) You don't deserve to...

When we say this we reveal we're forgetting that we ourselves don't deserve the amazing Savior God has graciously provided for us.

7) I don't pray/go to church/read my Bible unless I...

If we avoid God and/or those things that help us grow in our relationship to Him because we're feeling guilty, or unworthy due to our sin, or if we try to atone for our sins through works righteousness, we reveal that we have gospel amnesia. Because Jesus paid our sin debt and gave us His righteousness, our sins are gone and there is nothing to atone for, or feel guilty about.

GOING DEEPER:

1. The second message of the gospel is that Jesus is an amazing Savior. So just how amazing is He? Below is a short list of everything that Jesus has done for us and provided to us through His death and resurrection. Using a concordance, find at least one verse to support each statement. (You don't need to write the entire verse out.)

There are no answers given for this question since the student can use a concordance to find the verses. There are no right or wrong verses as long as they support the statements.

Jesus is An Amazing Savior!

- 1) Provided the basis for our justification:
 - 2) Made it possible for us to have peace with God:
 - 3) Gave His life so we could be forgiven for our sins:
 - 4) His resurrection from the dead ensures our future resurrection to eternal life:
 - 5) Took our sin and gave us His righteousness:
 - 6) Took away our condemnation:
 - 7) Freed us from the demands of the Law:
 - 8) Is our Faithful High Priest:
 - 9) Is able to cleanse our consciences:
 - 10) Gives us bold and confident access to the Father:
 - 11) Secures our sanctification:
 - 12) Will present us to the Father blameless with great joy:
 - 13) Caused us to be delivered from the domain of darkness:
 - 14) Caused us to become sons of God and co-heirs with Him:
 - 15) Made it possible for God to richly pour out the Holy Spirit upon us:
2. Choose one of the verses you found above to memorize. Write it below and remember to recite it to yourself several times a day. Before you know it, you'll have committed it to memory!

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: The Power of Remembering the Gospel

1. How did Cory Foster describe his life before marriage?
Answer should be similar to: He was into pornography, drinking, drug use and sex. In high school, his parents divorced due to his father's infidelity, which greatly accelerated his drug and alcohol usage. He was arrested numerous times. He said he felt like there was a hole inside of him that he was trying to fill with whatever he could find. He describes this time as "living as if there is no God."
2. How did Cory describe his understanding of Christianity at this time?
Answer should be similar to: He was raised in the church and thought he was saved, but understood Christianity to be just a list of rules.
3. What happened to his behavior after marriage?
Answer should be similar to: His drinking was out of control and his pornography addiction escalated, which he kept hidden from his wife. He began having numerous affairs and one-night stands. When confronted by his wife, he would lie or only tell her half the truth.
4. What did they do as a couple to help their troubled marriage, and what was the result?
Answer should be similar to: They read the Bible and prayed together. According to Cory, they "did the things you're supposed to do, but at the end of the day it didn't really make a big difference in my life."
5. When Cory finally confessed everything to his wife, Dayna, what was it that she remembered in that moment and how did it affect her response to Cory?
Answer should be similar to: She remembered the second part of the gospel, that Jesus saves sinners. So just as God had forgiven her of her sins against, him, she was able to forgive her husband of his sins against her.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What are your thoughts about Cory and Dayna's story? Can you relate to it in any way? Write your thoughts below.
2. Has anyone ever sinned against you in such a hurtful way? (Maybe not adultery, but any sin that caused you deep and profound pain.) Were you able to forgive that person? Why or why not?
3. Take a few moments to reflect on the gospel by honestly answering the questions under each part. When you're done, pray about your answers.

We are very bad sinners who hate God.

- How have you sinned against God? Think about your actions, your thoughts, and your words.
- Do these sins bother trouble your conscience?
- Does it concern you that you have sinned against God?

Jesus is a very great Savior who saves rebels.

- Have your sins been forgiven by the blood of Jesus?
- Or do you believe you are too great a sinner to be forgiven?
- Have you been trying to “do the things you’re supposed to do” to clean up your act? How has that been working out for you? Can you relate to Cory’s experience with trying to do religious things, but not seeing a real change?

If you want further information about how to become a Christian, please go to www.wretched.tv. You’ll find helpful (and free!) information on what it means to be a Christian, and how you can know for sure that you’re saved.